GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6096
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2003
FOREST AREA UNDER CENTRAL ACT
SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Hon`ble Supreme Court has issued an order to bring the entire forest area of the States under the Central Act;

(b) If so, the action being taken to implement the above order;

(c) The steps being taken to cover more areas under afforestation; and

(d) The action being taken against illegal felling of trees in the forest areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Hon`ble Supreme Court of India in its order dated 12.12 1996 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 has directed that the provisions enacted in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the conservation of forests and the matters connected therewith must apply clearly to all forests irrespective of the ownership or classification.

(b) Pursuant to the Supreme Court`s order dated 12.12.96 in W.P.(C) No.202 of 1995 the State Governments have formed expert committee for identification of such forests and have filed the affidavit in the Hon`ble Supreme Court.

(c) During the 10th Five-Year Plan, the Ministry has launched National Afforestation Programme with focus on people`s participation. The programme is implemented through decentralised Forest Development Agencies (FDA) formed at forest division level. During the year 2002-03, Rs. 174.38 crores have been released to 24 states for 292 FDAs.

(d) The action is taken by the State Governments against illegal felling of trees under Indian Forest Act, 1927 or respective State Forest Acts.